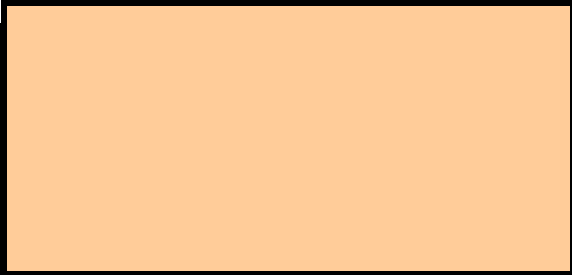


❖ Ad Veritatem ❖

Volume 3 Issue 3

March 1998



FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Baptismal Regeneration

This Thursday, March 19
convert, Rosalind Moss, will begin a
three month series on the nature and gifts of

Rosalind was born into a Jewish family.
Her life was dramatically changed in 1976
when she converted to Christianity. Leaving
business background, she became involved on
a full time basis in Evangelical Protestant
try eventually earning a ministry degree.

Through the influence of her brother and
other Protestant converts to Cathol
Rosalind set out on a compelling journey to
vestigate the claims of the Catholic Church.
After 2 ½ years of intensive and heart
wrenching struggle, she enter the Catholic
Church at Easter, 1995.

Her conversion story is related on an audio
tape entitled "Holy Shock" which is a compe
ling testimony to the historical and scriptural
basis for the Holy Eucharist. Copies of "Holy
Shock" will be available at the me

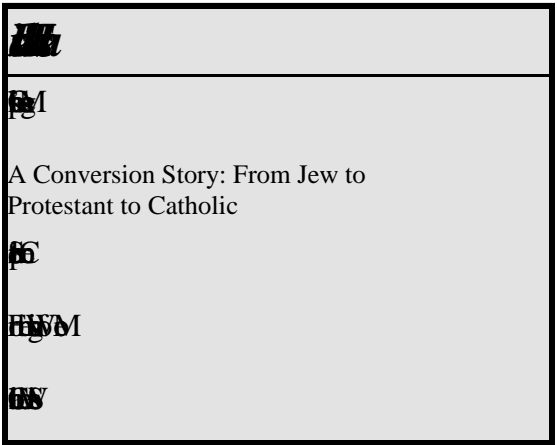
For more details on Rosalind's conve
sion, please see the story on page 5. †



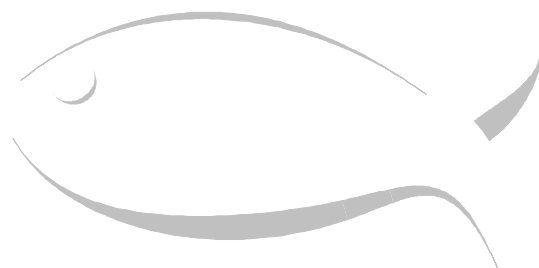
*More pointed
out the centrality
of pride, "the
mischievous
mother of all
manner of vice."*

**Thomas More:
A Portrait of
Courage (p. 94)**
Gerard Wegemer

*Editor's Note:
"Ad Veritatem"
is Latin for
"toward the truth"*



(Continued from page _____)



A Conversion By From Jew to Catholic



By: Karen Walker



*The
Rosalin
d Moss
Story*

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**The fear of the Lord
is the beginning of wisdom;
prudent are all who live by it.
Psalm 111**



A graduate of Thomas Aquinas College, Karen Walker is a Corona del Mar writer, specializing in fundraising copy and new letters. She is a regular contributor to the Orange Diocesan Bulletin and the L. A. Mission.

(Continued from page 2) **Faith of our Fathers**

Tertullian

While he was still a Catholic, during the time of persecutions before the legalization of Christianity in the Roman Empire, Tertullian wrote the only complete work on a sacrament of baptism. This treatise, _____, is a powerful defense of baptismal regeneration. Specifically, he refutes those who claim that faith in Christ alone (apart from the sacrament of baptism) is the forgiveness of sins and spiritual rebirth described by Christ in John 3:3

"A treatise on our sacrament of water, by which the sins of our earlier blindness are washed away and we are released for eternal life will not be superfluous. . . . [t]aking away death by the washing away of sins. The guilt being removed, the penalty, of course, is also removed. . . . Baptism itself is a corporal act by which we are plunged into the water, while its effect is spiritual, are freed from our sin (On Baptism 1:1; 5:6; 7:2 [circa A.D. 198]).

"Good enough, but faith means faith in all Christ did and said to do, so it includes being baptized. . . . And so they say, 'Baptism is not necessary to them to whom faith is sufficient, for after all, Abraham pleased God by no sacrament of water, but of faith.' But in all cases it is the later precedent that proves the point. Grant, for the sake of argument, that in days gone by, there was salvation by means of bare faith, before the resurrection of the Lord. But now that faith has been enlarged, and has become a faith which believes in His Nativity, Passion, and there has been an amplification added to the faith; this is the sealing act of baptism. . . . For the law of baptism has been imposed, and the formula prescribed: 'Go,' He said 'and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' The comparison of this law with that definition, 'Unless



Scriptural Corner:

And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed which when sown upon the ground is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes a tree"

The main meaning of this parable has to do with the contrast between the great and the small. The seed of the Kingdom of God on earth is something very tiny to begin with (Lk 12:32; Acts 1:15); but it will grow to be a big tree. Thus we see a small initial group of disciples grows in the early years of the Church (cf Acts 2:47; 6:7; 12:24), and spreads down the earth and becomes a great multitude "which no man could number" (Rev 7:9).

This mysterious growth which our Lord refers to also occurs in each soul: "the Kingdom of God is in the midst of you" (Lk 17:21); we can see a prediction of this in the words of Psalm 92:12: "The righteous grow like a cedar in Lebanon." To allow the mercy of God to exalt us, to make us grow, we must make ourselves small, humble (Ezek 17:22)



* *The Navarre Bible is a renowned edition of Sacred Scripture prepared by members of the Faculty of Theology*

(Continued from page 6) **Faith of our Fathers**
dragon. You go down dead in your sins, and you come up made alive in righteousness." (Catechetical Lectures 3:10,12 [circa A.D. 350]).

"The Lord was baptized, not to be cleansed himself by the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the Flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of baptism. Whoever comes, therefore, to the washing of Christ lays aside his sins."
 the Gospel of Luke 2:83 [circa A.D. 389]).

St. John Chrysostom

"How then shall we be able to give an account of the unseen birth by baptism, which is far more exalted than these?... Even angels stand in awe while that birth takes place . . . the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit work together. Let us then believe the declaration of God, for that is more trustworthy than actual seeing. The sight often is in error, but God's Word cannot fail; let us then believe it. . . . What then does it say? That what happens is a birth. . . . If any inquire, 'Why is water needed?' let us return, 'Why did God use earth to form man?'. . . curious. That the need of water is absolute and indispensable you may learn in this (Homily 25 on John 2 [A.D. 391]).

St. Augustine of Hippo
 Baptism is not merely an external sign of faith already possessed by the one to be baptized; it is the power of God cleansing the soul of the sinner, even in the case of infants:
"The cleansing would not at all be attributed to a passing and corruptible element, unless the word were added to it. This word possesses such power that through the medium of him who in faith presents,

(Continued from page 7) ***Faith of our Fathers***

14 (ante A.D. 165); **Didymus the Blind**: On the Trinity 2:12 (A.D. 391); **St. Cyril of Jerusalem**: Catechetical Lectures 2:4; Protocatechesis 16 (A.D. 350);

Homilies on John 10:3, 25

Homilies on Hebrews 5:3, 19:2

On the Mysteries 1

Pacian of Barcelona: Sermon on Baptism (ante A.D. 7 (A.D. 397); Dialogue

Against the Pelagians 3:1 (A.D. 413); **St. Augustine of** Enchiridion on Faith, Hope, and Charity 64 (A.

D. 421); On Marriage and Concupiscence 1:33

419); On Adulterous Spouses 2:16 (A.D. 420); On the

City of God 20:6 (A.D. 426); On Forgiveness of Sins and Baptism 1:9, 24; 2:27 (A.D. 412); On Baptism 1:12

(A.D. 400); Sermon on the Creed 1:7 214 (A.D. 418?); On the Gospel of John 6:7, 15

Catholic teaching on the sacrament of baptism is explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church



Our Chaplain, Father Hugh, writes for _____ Catholic Apologetic & Evangelization magazine.

ENVOY today and subscribe at their special introductory rate, order directly with their line subscription form (<http://www.envoy.org>), or buy _____ at a location near you!



As More put it, the liberal arts can “*prepare the soul for virtue.*” They can quicken the reason; they can form and perfect good judgment; they can clarify the highest principles which “*both instruct and inspire the mind in*”; they can develop prudence in human affairs. By themselves, however, they cannot pr



From **Thomas More: A Portrait of Courage** by Gerald B. Wegemer Scepter Publishers (p. 90

Catholic Answers

 ★  **WE GOOFED!** ★
 ★ The correct URL for ★
 ★ The Catholic Goldmine is: ★
 ★*****

HIS ROCK magazine

<http://www.catholic.com/ROCK/>

ABOUT THIS ROCK

This Rock is a magazine of apologetics and evangelization. Top Catholic writers explain the faith and defend it against misrepresentations and misunderstandings. Particular emphasis is put on the scriptural, historical, and rational grounds for Catholic teachings. All articles reflect Catholic orthodoxy.

The following are examples of articles from recent issues.

Out of the Closet and into Chastity

Does Being Catholic Make a Difference?

Oral Tradition in the New Testament

How My Parish Fought Off an Invasion

Catholic Answers is the largest Catholic apologetics and evangelization organization in North America. We are lay time efforts to promoting the Catholic faith through books, booklets, tracts, _____ ision and radio appearances. Some of us a ways have been Catholics, some of us have returned to the Catholic faith after having lapsed in our practice of it, and us are converts from other faiths. Our staff apologetics answers questions about the faith and give parish seminars. †

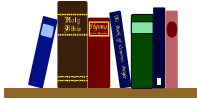
ad Risum Vertere Veritatem



Latin for "To turn truth into laughter"

FROM ACTUAL CHURCH HANDOUTS:

- * The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- * The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Hall after the B.
- * The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
- * Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.
- * Ushers will eat latecomers.
- * The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung with musical accompaniment.
- * For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- * Fr. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the
- * The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth Into Joy."
- * Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.
- * Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church
- * The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's *let in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m.* The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- * A song fest was held at the church hall Wednesday.
- * On a church bulletin during the minister's illness: GOD IS GOOD Fr. Hargreaves is better.
- * Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow.
- * Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.
- * The 1997 Spring Council Retreat will be held May 10 and
- * Pastor is on vacation. Masses can be given to church
- * The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.
- * Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance. †



From the Library

PRAXOROE



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St. Thomas More Society

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Brea, CA

Attn: Anne Lanphar

alanphar@firstam.com



**Our
Next
Meeting:**

DATE: *Thursday, March 19th @ NOON*

TOPIC: **GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

SPEAKER: **ROSALIND MOSS**

PLACE: *Village Farmer's Restaurant*

1651 Sunflower, Costa Mesa

Anne Lanphar @

647-2155 or Dave Belz @ 347-0447